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MS 5150

Pallottine Mission, Tardun WA, student records

1948 - 2004

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COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator:	Tardun School
Title:	Pallottine Mission, Tardun WA, student records
Collection no:	MS 5150
Date range:	1948 - 2004
Extent:	3.7 metres (21 boxes)
Repository:	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander Studies

CULTURAL SENSITIVITY STATEMENT

It is a condition of use of this finding aid, and of the collection described in it, that users ensure that any use of the information contained in it is sympathetic to the views and sensitivities of relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This includes:

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Users are warned that this finding aid may contain words and descriptions which may be culturally sensitive and which might not normally be used in certain public or community contexts. Terms and descriptions which reflect the author's attitude, or that of the period in which the manuscript was written, and which may be considered inappropriate today in some circumstances, may also be used.

Deceased persons

Users of this finding aid should be aware that, in some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, seeing images of deceased persons in photographs, film and books or hearing them in recordings etc. may cause sadness or distress and in some cases, offend against strongly held cultural prohibitions.

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ACCESS TO COLLECTION

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Access conditions

Closed Access. Contact: familyhistory@aiatsis.gov.au

Available to the person for whom there is a record, their nominated delegate or a member of their family.

Preferred citation

Items from this collection should be cited as *Pallottine Mission, Tardun WA, student records*, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 5150, Item or Folder number

For example:

Pallottine Mission, Tardun WA, student records, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 5150, Item 2 [file title].

COLLECTION OVERVIEW

Scope and contents note

This collection contains student files relating to the Pallottine Mission and school/s at Tardun WA. As well as the mission schools, there are papers in the files relating to other schools which the students attended while staying at the Pallottine Mission/ Wandalgu Hostel.

[Records relating to schools conducted by other religious orders at Tardun, eg the Christian Brothers, are not part of this collection.]

Provenance

The collection was donated to the AIATSIS Collection by Father Eugene San, Pallottines Regional Leader, on 22 July 2017

Material separated from the collection

No material has been separated from the student records collection.

Related material

For a complete list of works related to the Pallottines at Tardun held in the Collection and for other related material consult [Mura®](#), the AIATSIS catalogue.

Archivist's notes

This collection has been fully indexed; however the index will not be published because of the volume of personal and private information listed. This short finding aid has been published to indicate the context and scope of the collection and to indicate how people searching for these records might obtain access.

Appendix 1 of the full index includes lists of Fathers' names, Sisters' names, Brothers' names, school names, Teachers' names, Commonwealth or State departments referenced in the files, and reports. These lists may not be comprehensive, as, eg, sometimes teachers' names are indecipherable; or a particular teacher has not been named in any student's file.

This information has been taken from the students' files. This collection does not include dedicated files for teachers or for religious who were attached to the Tardun School. Researchers seeking information about, eg, a teacher's tenure at the school are advised to contact the Pallottines archivist.

Some student records do not identify a school.

Student Records

Entries for students include, where possible: Student's name, date/s of admission and discharge from school, correspondence dates, student's date of birth, birth certificate or extract of entry, father's name, mother's name, indication of whether they are foster parents, names of siblings if mentioned in the file, name of school/hostel attended or enrolled in, whether the student was a Ward of the State, and notes made by the archivist [enclosed in square brackets].

If 'State Ward' is noted on the front of the file, this has been noted. However many children were Wards of the State and this is only revealed when reading through the papers inside the file.

Student names have been taken from the manila folders, Surname followed by Christian name. Admission and discharge dates have been taken from the manila folder or documents within it.

The first set of dates indicates the dates the student was admitted and discharged from the school. Some students have left schools and come back; these dates are also recorded.

If there is any correspondence in a student's file with a date range different to that of their admission and discharge dates, the earliest and latest dates of the correspondence have been noted. These dates may come from school reports.

Facsimiles have been photocopied for preservation.

Files may contain: parents' address, a grandparent's name, student school reports, tax file numbers, immunisation records, psychological reports, medical records and hearing test results. These have not been noted.

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Sensitive information: Some files contain material that could possibly be distressing to a client or their family members. This material has been left in situ and put into an envelope or into a folded piece of paper and identified as sensitive. This material may be court appearances, newspaper articles about criminal proceedings, allegations, abuse, and assault.

Square brackets have been used to identify descriptive information added by the archivist. For example: [or Aug]; [actually 1970 see...]

Acronyms:

DOB Date of birth

Fr Father

Br Brother

Sr Sister

BACKGROUND NOTE

The Society of the Catholic Apostolate (Pallottines) was formed in 1846 by St Vincent Pallotti. In late 1900, while Bishop William Kelly was in Rome, he requested missionaries to be sent to Beagle Bay in the Kimberley, to take over the Trappist mission to Aboriginal people. The church authorities supported this request and the Mission was committed on 12 Jan 1901.

In 1945 discussions took place between Fr George Vill, Bishop Gummer [Bishop of Geraldton 1942-1962], and the Minister of Native Affairs [Western Australia], about establishing a boarding school for Aboriginal children at Tardun WA.

Construction of the residential mission school started on the Mission site in 1946 and it opened in 1948. The facility was to be “conducted on the lines of a normal boarding school”. The care of the children at the school and in the girls’ dormitory was entrusted to the Presentation Sisters, Dominican Sisters and the Schönstatt Sisters. The Pallottine Fathers and Brothers looked after the boys. In the 1960’s lay missionaries began to take over the work of the Sisters.

As the lay Missionaries did not staff the school, the Pallottines Fathers asked the Western Australian Government to take over the administration and staffing of the school. This meant the boarding facility and school were split into two separate entities. The Government Primary School was established in about 1961, with Ian Markey as the first Headmaster, however the name ‘Pallottine Mission School’ officially continued for much longer.

In 1961 Father Edmund Wehrmaker made the decision to rebuild the Mission as it had fallen into disrepair. The rebuilding program began in 1965 and the Mission would eventually become the modern Wandalgu Hostel in about 1968. The Hostel changed its name to Wandalgu Hostel in 1995. The Wandalgu Hostel closed in late 2003 or early 2004.

From 1968 to 1980 the Pallottine Mission carried out a joint project with the Western Australian Government to run an Agricultural school on the Pallottine property, as part of which the Mission accommodated and looked after the students in out-of-school time. The school was to give boys who had completed primary school but would perhaps not do so

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well in high school, the opportunity to learn some skills that would be useful in later life. After an initial enthusiasm in the local Aboriginal Community, eligible boys preferred to attend the mainstream high school. There were years when boys from the Kimberley were in the majority, but they too were attracted to schools that opened up in the North.

The Native Welfare Department took over recruitment for the agricultural school and placed great numbers of children who were Wards of the State there. The purpose for which the school was established was lost and at the request of the Mission, the Education Department closed the school in 1980.

Fr Ray Hevern, the Wandalgu hostel Administrator in 1987, thought the primary school should again come under the Catholic Education system. This was achieved in 1990 and the Tardun Government Primary School became the Tardun Catholic Primary School. Initially the Pallottines had been in charge of the School and the boarding facility, however the new Catholic School is a separate entity directed by the Catholic Education Office. New classrooms were built and in 1994 the new school was opened with the name Wandalgu Catholic Primary School.

Note:

There were other schools run by different Catholic orders operating in the Tardun area at around the same time. These schools were distinct from that run by the Pallottine Mission. Records from these schools are not contained in this collection.

The Christian Brothers also ran the Christian Brothers Agricultural School from 1936. Find & Connect 2018, *Western Australia - Photos details: The Christian Brothers Agricultural School, Tardun, Western Australia*, viewed 26 October 2018, <<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/wa/objects/WD0001043.htm>>.

The Christian Brothers also ran the Tardun Farm School from 1928 to 2008. Alternative names were: St Mary's Agricultural School, Clontarf boys home Tardun, and Tardun Agricultural College.

Find and Connect 2018, *Western Australia - Organisation: Tardun Farm School (1928-2008)*, viewed 26-10-18, <<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/wa/WE00216>>

Timeline

- 1946 Pallottine Mission School Tardun began construction, boarding school
- 1948 Pallottine Mission Tardun was opened
- 1960 The Western Australian Education Department was asked to take over the running of the School. The hostel continued to be run by the Pallottines.
- 1961 Tardun Government Primary School was established
- 1965 Rebuilding of the Mission School began and would eventually become the Wandalgu Hostel
- 1968 Tardun Agricultural School was opened
- 1980 Tardun Agricultural School was closed
- 1987 Father Ray Hevern became administrator of the Wandalgu Hostel
- 1990 Tardun Government Primary School became the Tardun Catholic Primary School
- 1992 Catholic Education Office built new classrooms - first stage

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- 1994 Second stage, new classrooms were built by the Catholic Education Office.
- 1994 At the official opening the school name was changed from Tardun Catholic Primary School to Wandalgu Catholic Primary School
- 1995 Pallottine Mission Hostel changed its name after rebuilding to Wandalgu Hostel in 1995
- 2004 Wandalgu Hostel closed.

References:

Diocese of Geraldton n.d. *Past Bishop*, viewed 14 January 2019, <<https://www.geraldtondiocese.org.au/heritage/past-bishops>>

Luemmen, John & Nailon, Brigida 2000, *Led by the spirit: autobiography of Father John Luemmen SAC*, Pallottine Community Rossmoyne WA.

Nailon, B, *Nothing is wasted in the household of God*, Spectrum Publications Australia, Richmond, 2000.

The Society of the Catholic Apostolate 1999, *The making of the Wandalgu Hostel*, viewed 26 October 2018, <<https://www.pallottine.org.au/item/18-the-making-of-wandalgu-hostel.html>>

The Society of the Catholic Apostolate 1999, *The Tardun Agricultural School*, viewed 26-10-18, <<https://www.pallottine.org.au/item/19-the-tardun-agricultural-school.html>>

The Society of the Catholic Apostolate 1999, *The Tardun Agricultural School*, viewed 26-10-18, <<https://www.pallottine.org.au/history/wandalgu-tardun-wa.html>>

The Society of the Catholic Apostolate 1999, *The Pallottine Mission School*, viewed 26 October 2018, <<https://www.pallottine.org.au/item/17-pallottine-mission-school.html>>

The Society of the Catholic Apostolate 1999, *A very special school closes*, viewed 26 October 2018, <<https://www.pallottine.org.au/item/20-a-very-special-school-closes.html>>

The Society of the Catholic Apostolate 1999, *Western Australia - Organisation: Wandalgu Hostel (1968? -)*, viewed 26 October 2018, <<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/wa/biogs/WE01470b.html>>

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE

Often, people from different families have identical surnames. Sometimes children with the same first names and surnames are from different families.

Files are arranged alphabetically by Surname then Christian name. This results in members of the one family being interfiled with those of another family, where the surname is the same. The files of children from the same family may not be grouped together. Records belonging to children from other families may be interfiled.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

The files in this collection constitute one series. It comprises the administrative records kept about each child for the period they attended the Pallottines School at Tardun, or lived in the hostel while attending other schools.

The files are arranged alphabetically by surname.

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Appendix

An appendix has been added which includes: the type of information that can be found in some of the files, and lists of: Fathers, Sisters, Brothers, school names, teachers, Commonwealth or State departments referenced in files, and reports, some of which are provided in this finding aid.

Types of Information:

- ❖ School Reports
- ❖ Suspension Notices
- ❖ Photographs
- ❖ Certificates
- ❖ Letters
- ❖ Enrolment Applications
- ❖ Birth Extracts
- ❖ Immunisation Records
- ❖ Medical History
- ❖ School Payments
- ❖ Letters of Concern from Principal
- ❖ Case Summaries - Children Services
- ❖ Travel Records
- ❖ Students Family Information
- ❖ Psychological Reports
- ❖ Community Service Orders
- ❖ Applications for Grants
- ❖ Centre Link Documents

List of School Names

- ❖ Wandalgu Catholic Primary School (Formerly Tardun Catholic Primary School)
- ❖ Wandalgu Hostel
- ❖ Morawa District High School - C.J Riordan, Principal
- ❖ Tardun Government Agricultural School for Aboriginal Boys
- ❖ Morawa Agricultural District High School
- ❖ Morawa District agricultural High School
- ❖ St. Joachim's High School
- ❖ Pallottine Mission
- ❖ Pallottine Mission School Tardun
- ❖ Tardun Primary School

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- ❖ Tardun Special Aboriginal School
- ❖ John Willcock College
- ❖ St. Norbert College
- ❖ Fitzroy Crossing School
- ❖ Beach lands Primary School
- ❖ Central Midlands Senior High School
- ❖ W.A. Correspondence School Student Report
- ❖ Trinity College
- ❖ La Grange Remote Community School
- ❖ Balgo Mission
- ❖ Melville Senior High School
- ❖ Mullewa District High School
- ❖ Tom Price Primary School
- ❖ Hedland Senior High School
- ❖ Mount Lawley Senior High School
- ❖ OLMC - Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- ❖ John Forrest Senior High School

Information about the list of teachers

Teachers' names and School names have been taken from student reports or other documentation found in student files. Variations in school names have been included, e.g. Morawa District High School, Morawa Agricultural High School and Morawa Agricultural District High School. A teacher may be listed more than once if they were at a different school or the school name was different. The names are recorded in the order in which they were found in the files and have not been re-arranged alphabetically or grouped under school names. Sometimes it was not possible to determine the teacher's name because the signature was not decipherable, or the school that the teacher and student were at. This occurs when the report does not have a school name on it.

Departments and organisations

Files may contain forms and information about students from government departments or other organisations.

- ❖ Department of Education
- ❖ Department of Native Welfare - Government of Western Australia - Education Department
- ❖ Commonwealth Department of Social Services
- ❖ Pallottine Mission
- ❖ Department of Community Development
- ❖ Health Department of Western Australia

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- ❖ Perth Dental Hospital and Community Dental Services
- ❖ Department for Community Welfare
- ❖ Department of Social Security
- ❖ Registrar of Births
- ❖ Geraldton Health Service

NOTE:

For access or enquiries about this collection please contact familyhistory@aiatsis.gov.au

Finding aid compiled by Grace Price and Cathy Zdanowicz, November 2018

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